

about their conditions. Because of the encouragement of Mr. Garcia, he had a newfound desire to perform his job at a new level and credits Mr. Garcia for the changes in the finishing shop.

Kevin felt lucky to be able to attend the first Inauguration of President Barack Obama, an opportunity afforded him since the finishing shop worked behind the scenes on the stage preparation.

Another fond memory occurred in 2004 when an unexpected celebrity made an appearance on Capitol Hill—musical superstar Michael Jackson. He had been summoned to a hearing to call attention to the AIDS crisis. As he tells it, Kevin and some of his coworkers were standing outside near the Rayburn Building in anticipation of his arrival. They had almost given up when they saw his motorcade pull up right beside the wall near Rayburn. Michael Jackson got out of the car and walked directly toward Kevin, Tim Magruder and others, wearing his iconic glitter gloves and boots. Kevin was starstruck and barely able to speak, but Michael Jackson engaged them briefly, shook hands and then he was off. Coworkers later teased Kevin about being so moved in that moment.

Kevin has witnessed many different events in his 37-year career. With a heavy heart, he remembers being present on 9/11. He will never forget being outside and seeing the smoke from afar, which was the moment the Pentagon had been hit by a plane. But like others, he did not know the implication at the time of this terrorist attack and how it changed our lives forever. He was also present during the anthrax attack, when he and his crew were called in to clean all the furniture that was exposed to the anthrax.

Kevin was working when the earthquake hit Capitol Hill in 2011. He was in the office when the buildings, doors and floors started to sway. After the buildings were evacuated, he had to shelter on the corner for several hours until the building inspections were concluded. He was present when two Capitol Hill police officers were. And most recently, he was at work during the insurrection on January 6, 2021. So many memories, both good and bad, because of his long career with Congress.

In retirement, he plans to pursue some of his hobbies, like boxing on a punching bag, traveling abroad, catching up on movies, a particular interest, and volunteering with the homeless community. He will continue to attend the church in Baltimore where his cousin is the pastor, which he has attended since childhood. Kevin is looking forward to spending more time with his wife and daughter and including them in his retirement activities.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Kevin Harris for his dedication and outstanding contributions to the House of Representatives. We wish him many wonderful years in fulfilling his retirement dreams.

PASSING OF MR. JOHN HENRY
LYLES, III

HON. MIKE JOHNSON

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, in honoring the late John Henry Lyles, III,

we recognize and celebrate his life well-lived yet cut far too short.

“Jay,” as he was affectionately called by friends, was a Louisianan through and through. He was born and raised in the beautiful town of Minden in Louisiana’s Fourth Congressional District. He later made his way down to Baton Rouge where he graduated from LSU and earned a Master’s degree in Public Administration. Jay was passionate about his alma mater, LSU, and especially its football program.

Jay was known for always dedicating himself to those around him and accomplishing what he set his mind to. He loved his family, and all who knew him can testify to his exceptional character, drive, and kindness. He had many roles: friend, family man, entrepreneur, marketing guru, political consultant, and accomplished writer, to name a few.

Louisiana is home to some of the most talented, most charitable, and most outstanding people in the nation. Jay’s deep love for the state and his willingness to serve those around him are what he will be remembered most for. He was a good friend of mine—and of countless many others.

Jay will be missed, but he will never be forgotten.

GLEN KELLER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Glen Keller for his decades of service to the Colorado Westernaires organization.

For almost forty years, Glen has served as President of the Colorado Westernaires, a local non-profit which provides training in western riding, precision drills and horse care for local youth ranging from 9 to 19 years old. A lifelong resident of Colorado, Glen moved to Jefferson County in 1964. He started a law practice and in 1983 joined the Westernaires organization. During his decades of service, he has inspired and mentored thousands of young adults as they learn the values of the organization including leadership, self-respect and personal responsibility through horsemanship, western heritage and community belonging.

Previously, Glen served on the board of the National Western Stock Show and Rodeo which the Westernaires competes in every year.

In addition to his service to the Westernaires community, Glen is a loving husband and loving father. He has been married to his wife Liz for over 55 years, the proud father of two daughters, and a devoted grandfather to five grandchildren.

I have had the opportunity to meet with Glen and participate in Westernaires events on several occasions and I have been inspired by his contribution to the organization. I wish Glen all the best and send gratitude for his service to our community and to the State of Colorado.

RECOGNIZING THOMAS HARPER

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Thomas Harper, a Title 10 AGR Functional Area-59 qualified Major assigned to the Army National Guard G-5 as a Strategic Planner.

Mr. Harper began his service to our country at the age of 17 as an Infantryman in the Florida Army National Guard. He served 19 years in the Army at the tactical, operational, and strategic levels as a paratrooper, combat veteran, and qualified strategist. Mr. Harper served in units including infantry regiments, airborne special forces, the National Guard Bureau, the Department of the Army, the United States Special Operations Command, and the Office of the Secretary of Defense. He completed five operational tours in Afghanistan, Africa, and Central America.

Before returning to the Army National Guard G-5, Thomas Harper demonstrated his commitment to building and maintaining strong relationships between the Army and the legislative branch. Mr. Harper held the MILCON portfolio in the Readiness branch of the Programs Division at the Department of the Army’s Office of the Chief Legislative Liaison from 2018 to 2020. In his work, Mr. Harper worked closely with Members of Congress and interagency partners. He assisted Army Senior Leaders with preparation for Congressional hearings and traveled with Members and their staff, as well as Armed Services Committee professional staff members. Mr. Harper was also selected twice as the detail to the Department of Defense COVID-19 task force.

Mr. Harper’s achievements in his service to the United States have been recognized with countless awards. He is a two-time recipient of the Purple Heart Medal and the Bronze Star Medal for Valor. He received the French Cross of Military Valor at Division level (equivalent to the U.S. Silver Star) from the Ambassador of France for his combat actions in Afghanistan during December 2009. Mr. Harper is one of only seven Americans to receive this award since World War II. He has also been honored with the National Guard Association of the United States Patrick Henry Award, the National Guard Bureau’s Outstanding Performance Award, the Georgia Military College Outstanding Young Alumni Award, and the Georgia Military College George C. Marshall Award.

Madam Speaker, Thomas Harper is an outstanding Army officer and model citizen who has served with honor for nearly two decades. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

IN MEMORY OF ANN HANEY

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the memory of my friend, Ann Haney, a longtime community leader in Pulaski County, Kentucky